

CAMBODIA-THAILAND PEACE DEAL

Anwar dismisses former Thai general's 'traitor' remarks

BUKIT MERTAJAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has dismissed criticism from a former Thai general over his role in the Thailand-Cambodia peace agreement.

He said he welcomed criticism, provided it was based on facts and not unfounded accusations or personal insults.

"If the opposition criticises Anwar for not resolving poverty, I can accept that. But insults from a former Thai general? That's not smart.

"That friend (Rangsi Kitiyansap) is like the Pejuang party, contesting elections but never winning. Not just losing, but even losing deposits.

"If people want to criticise, I have no problem. But we need to respond so that the correct information reaches the public."

It was reported that a video featuring Major-General (Rtd) Rangsi Kitiyansap showed him accusing Anwar of being a traitor who had caused Thailand economic losses through the peace agreement with Cambodia, claiming it had al-

lowed the United States to interfere in Thailand.

Armed Forces chief General Tan Sri Mohd Nizam Jaffar said Rangsi's claims reflected a poor understanding of Asean centrality and disregarded the collaborative architecture that underpins this peace framework.

"They undermine the very principles of professionalism and mutual respect that have long guided military institutions in our region.

"The allegation distorts both the content and intent of the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord, where the official documents underpinning this process are transparent and collectively endorsed by all participating governments," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Nizam said the accord outlined clear commitments focused on peace, security, humanitarian co-

operation and regional stability.

"At this juncture, any attempt to discredit Malaysia's role, the leadership of our prime minister or the integrity of the Asean Observer Team (AOT) is malicious in intent.

It undermines the core objective of the process, which is peace.

"Malaysia has never sought recognition or credit. Our only interest is to restore stability, protect lives and uphold the principles of regional solidarity.

"Soldiers on both sides of the border deserve the chance to lay down their arms, while the families (civilians) who have lived through months of fear deserve the

safety to rebuild their lives. That has always been, and remains, our objective.

He said the Malaysian armed forces had long upheld the principle that peace was best achieved through mutual understanding

and cooperation.

"From Mindanao to Timor-Leste to Lebanon, our peacekeepers have served with professionalism, neutrality and respect for sovereignty.

"The facilitation of peace between Thailand and Cambodia is part of this same tradition of service."

Nizam said peace never comes without cost as it required patience, moral courage and the ability to look beyond personal or political pride.

"From the very beginning, three messages have guided every step we have taken: peace is expensive, life is precious and time is essential.

"These are not mere slogans, but hard truths that every soldier understands. It is, therefore, deplorable when individuals who once wore the uniform choose to politicise a process aimed at preventing further loss of life.

"To call another leader a traitor or spy without evidence demeans not the accused, but the accuser.

"It disregards the tireless efforts

of those who have worked quietly and selflessly to build peace and erodes the trust that is fundamental to regional security."

Nizam urged all officers, serving and retired, to uphold the principles of truth, fairness and professionalism.

He said Malaysia remained steadfast in its commitment to Asean-led solutions, the respect of national sovereignty and the transparent implementation of all peace agreements.

On Oct 26, Thailand and Cambodia signed the landmark peace agreement, paving the way to end months of deadly military clashes.

The agreement, signed by Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, was witnessed by Anwar and US President Donald Trump.

On July 28, Anwar hosted a high-level meeting in Putrajaya between Hun Manet and then Thai acting prime minister Phumtham Wechayachai, successfully defusing tensions along their border.



General Tan Sri Mohd Nizam Jaffar